

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows. A new abstract numbered page 18 is enclosed as the last page of the application following the claims.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical fibre unit having a sheath and a plurality of optical fibre elements loosely housed in the sheath. The sheath is coated with particles of an adherence reducing substance and has a radial thickness that is not substantially greater than 0.3 mm. The coating of adherence reducing particles is applied as a liquid coating. The liquid coating is a dispersion of the particles and heat is applied to evaporate the liquid content of the liquid coating to produce a dry coating of particles on the sheath.